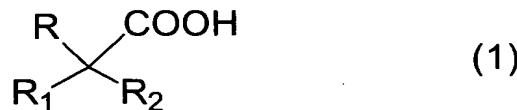


## Abstract

The present invention discloses a process for preparing a nitrile compound, a carboxylic acid compound or 5 a carboxylic acid ester compound represented by the formula (2) :



wherein R represents a cyano group, a carboxyl group or an ester group, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> each represent a group 10 which does not participate in the reaction, which may have a substituent, and R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> may be combined to each other to form a ring, which comprises subjecting an acetic acid compound represented by the formula (1) :



15 wherein R, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> have the same meanings as defined above, to decarboxylation in the presence of a metal catalyst.